

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, The holiday season is a time to be thankful for America's abundant supply of safe, wholesome, and affordable food; and,

Whereas, South Dakota's farmers and ranchers not only provide the food we eat but also help sustain rural communities, preserve open space and wildlife habitat, and protect the environment; and,

Whereas, South Dakota's farmers and ranchers produce the food which nourishes our bodies and serves as the centerpiece for family gatherings and holiday celebrations; and,

Whereas, South Dakota is home to more than 31 thousand farmers and ranchers and more than 43 million acres – 90 percent of the state's total land area is dedicated to agriculture; and,

Whereas, South Dakota ranks in the top ten states nationally in the production of corn, wheat, hay, sunflowers, oats, flaxseed, soybeans, honey, sheep, pigs, and cattle, and is also the nation's largest producer of bison and pheasants; and,

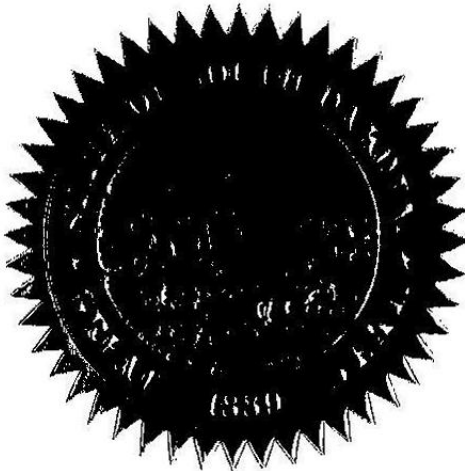
Whereas, Agriculture is South Dakota's number one industry, employing over 173 thousand South Dakotans in the production, processing, and support industries – 40 percent of the state's workforce – and generating more than \$645 million in tax revenues; and,

Whereas, Farming and ranching play a vital role in the economy of the country and our state:

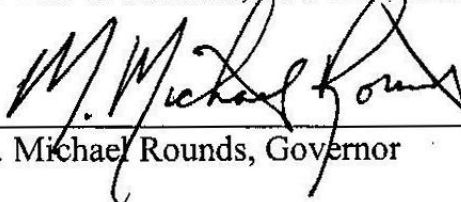
Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 20, 2009, as

THANK A FARMER DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Seventeenth Day of November in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State